

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of **Manchester, Bolton, Glastonbury and Marlborough** is ensuring our towns receive their fair share of state funding. In this table, I am pleased to report grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2009–2010.

	Fiscal Year 09-10
Total Education Grants	\$44,223,358
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$758,514
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$668,130
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$717,735
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$1,795,572
Total State Funds to the 11th District	\$48,163,309



Another Successful Senior Fair

Hundreds of area residents attended my annual Senior Fair at Manchester Community College last month. Attendees were able to gather information, speak with officials from government agencies and learn more about the various health and social services that are available to seniors.



I was pleased to be able to help secure \$150,000 in state funding for the Manchester Area Conference of Church's Food Pantry. These funds were included in the recently approved biennial state budget—funding that Governor Rell had unconstitutionally threatened to veto as 'pork barrel spending.' In this photo I talk to the Food Pantry's Executive Director Beth Stafford.

TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this coupon and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the address panel of this mailer.

- ☐ Business
- ☐ Health Care
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Criminal Justice
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Seniors

Name:

Address:

Town:

Zip:

E-mail:



State Senator
Mary Ann Handley

Legislative Office Building, Room 3200, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol Phone: 860-204-0441; toll-free: 1-800-842-1420
E-mail: Handley@senatedems.ct.gov
Web: www.SenatorHandley.cga.ct.gov



Dear Neighbor,

The global recession has hit Connecticut hard. People have lost their jobs and even their homes. At the same time, the state's budget deficit reached a record high of \$8.5 billion.

Our challenge this legislative session was not simply to balance the budget: we were determined to help grow jobs and protect working families and middle-class folks who are struggling to survive the recession.

We did it by passing a fair budget that makes tough cuts, protects funding for education and small businesses, and avoids across-the-board tax increases. I'm also pleased that we passed laws that will help fight breast cancer and autism, protect consumers from identify theft and preserve our environment.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Handley
State Senator

I'm proud to represent the
4th Senate District:
Manchester,
Bolton,
Glastonbury
& Marlborough

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State Senator
Mary Ann Handley
 4th District

Serving Manchester, Bolton, Glastonbury & Marlborough

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Fighting for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than **\$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history**. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Democrats also made the tax code fairer by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year. The budget will help stabilize Connecticut's economy and help families survive this difficult time.



Protecting Families from Reckless Cuts

Despite efforts by some to make reckless cuts, I stood up for these and other important programs and services:

- ▶ **The LIFE STAR** medical helicopter has helped save lives in every town and city in Connecticut. It is an especially vital service for those in rural parts of the state.
- ▶ **Higher education scholarships** help students and their parents afford college. A recession is the worst time to reduce scholarships and financial aid.
- ▶ **Public libraries** add so much to our towns and cities. Across-the-board cuts, as some proposed, would have hit them hard.
- ▶ **School-based health centers** help protect children from epidemics, such as the flu. Deep cuts to these centers would have undermined public health.



Cracking Down on Credit Card Companies

For years, credit card companies have solicited students on college campuses. As a result, more and more college students face insurmountable credit card debt. Parents also find themselves responsible for their children's debt. That's why we passed a law putting restrictions on the issuance and marketing of credit cards on public college campuses. Credit card companies must hold financial education sessions on campuses where they are marketing. This law forbids credit card companies from automatically taking debt collection action against a student's parent. All told, it is a dramatic step toward preventing youth from incurring debt before they start their professional careers.



'Silver Alert' System for Missing Seniors

This year we established a 'Silver Alert' to help locate missing seniors and disabled adults, comparable to the AMBER Alert system that helps find missing children. The system will engage public safety agencies in a search for vulnerable persons and prepare first responders for a potential rescue. The public will be notified through radio, television and electronic highway signs.

Healthy Schools, Healthy Kids

We expect our children's schools to be clean and safe. That's why the legislature voted this year to phase in the use of "green" cleaning programs in all of Connecticut's public schools. Switching to a green cleaning program not only helps to keep harmful chemicals away from growing children, it also helps to save money.

Helping Veterans and Their Families Cope with Illness



The legislature took steps to help members of the armed forces—and their families—who are injured in the line of duty. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protects people from being laid off when they are forced to take time off from work to care for a loved one. The FMLA permits workers to take up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave. The new law ensures that family members who are caring for a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Army Reserve, have the same rights.

Reverse 9-1-1 to Keep Your Family Safe

In 1998, I introduced legislation that would revolutionize the way police officers and firefighters would be able to help you and your family in an emergency. Within the 9-1-1 emergency system, information typically flows one way: from you to the dispatcher. I'm pleased to say—after all these years—legislation was finally signed into law enabling emergency personnel to be able to use the 9-1-1 system to contact residents. This technology can be used to speed up evacuation of an area facing a natural disaster, to guide citizens to shelter in the event of a chemical spill, or to enlist aid in finding a missing child, Alzheimer's patient or a fugitive.



Growing Green Jobs

Connecticut joined 25 other states this year in passing "green jobs" legislation. In order to help grow jobs, the bill would have required the state to apply for any federal green jobs funding and to establish a program to create green jobs and promote green energy and conservation. The bill also emphasized using the resources of Connecticut's existing green industries, such as biofuel and solar panel manufacturers and our strong fuel cell industry. Unfortunately, this bill was vetoed by the governor.

Preserving Connecticut Farmland

Much of Connecticut's farmland and open space is in jeopardy of being paved over, threatening the state's farming industry and quality of life. This new law helps the state permanently protect 1,300 acres of farmland across Connecticut. Thanks to the new law, farmers will have greater certainty that the land they depend on won't be taken away. A special board will also review options for preserving more open space and farmland—a boost for the economy and the environment.

